Knoxville News-Sentinel

Nov 24, 1978

Tennessee Today

Former King Chauffeur Says Mark Lane Offered Bribe

MEMPHIS (UPI) — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s former chauffeur has accused attorney Mark Lane of offering him a $1000 bribe last month if he would testify that the FBI helped kill the civil rights leader.

Lane represents James Earl Ray, who is serving a 99-year sentence in Brushy Mountain State Prison for the King slaying.

Solomon Jones Jr., who was with King when he was shot in Memphis 10 years ago, said he refused the money.

Lane, who is seeking a new trial for Ray, denied the allegation.

"Either the reporter (who talked to Jones) is a liar or Solomon Jones is a liar," Lane said.

Jones, 40, said Lane made the offer a month ago when he went to see Jones at the Shelby County Jail, where the former chauffeur is serving a one-year sentence for embezzlement.

lingering campaign debts.

"The campaign's books are balanced," Ingram, who managed Alexander's campaign, said. "We need to raise more money to help pay back some of the people who loaned us money with the understanding that we would repay them if we won."